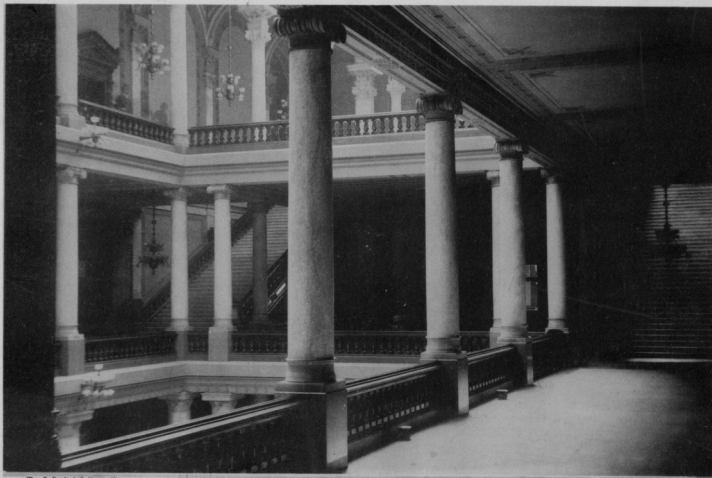


*The Indiana Capitol Tour Office presents*

# Up to the Minute History..... At the State House



JUST FOR  
FUN !!



Wm. B. Barford, Indianapolis.

SECOND STORY CORRIDOR.

These are pictures  
from the late  
1800's showing the  
second and third  
floor corridors.  
Notice the small  
objects on the  
floor?

**SPITOONS !!!**

**#changeisgood :)**





[Click here](#) to see a rare video of  
Indianapolis in 1916.

Thanks to the Indiana State  
Library !

### **INDIANA QUICK QUIZ**

1. Who is the cat that Hoosier Jim Davis has made famous?
2. "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" was the slogan for what Presidential candidate?
3. In what Indiana city will you find a church designed by famous architect Eliel Saarinen?

### **CHALLENGER**

Name the Indiana Governor buried in Arlington National Cemetery

Keep reading to find the answers !



## TREE TRIM 2014

The 2014 Holiday Season at the State House was celebrated with 7 live trees donated by the Indiana Christmas Tree Growers Association and a 12 foot wreath donated by the Friends of the Archives. Decorations were provided by Kathy Riley, JP Parker Floral and the County Associations of Indiana.



On December 5th, Santa, the Governor and First Lady hosted a program for students who then made ornaments to take home for their tree !



Later that evening and again on Saturday the second annual, "Christmas at the Capitol", was held at the State House.

The program featured choirs from across Indiana and hosted by the Governor, First Lady and The Friends of the Archives.







# STATEHOOD DAY

## DECEMBER 11, 2014



All morning 4th graders went through the halls of the State House participating in activities designed by offices and agencies of state government. At noon the program featured the original constitution, speakers from all branches of state government and the reading of the winning essay.

After reading her winning essay to the crowd of 400, Olivia Abner, accepts her awards from the Governor, First Lady and Chief Justice Rush.



The First Lady talked with students about the importance of family pets and shared her own who came to visit !



Rangers from the Park Service shared stories and provided opportunities to learn about what they do for Indiana.

President Benjamin Harrison was on hand to talk about his life and times !



## NOTES ON GOVERNORS

Historian James H. Madison has called Paul V. McNutt the most significant Indiana governor since Oliver P. Morton. Born in Franklin, Indiana, McNutt lived there until the age of two when his family moved to Indianapolis. His father John became the librarian of the Indiana Supreme Court. As a young boy, Paul spent hours in the library with his father.

Later the family moved to Martinsville where John started a law practice. Paul went on to Indiana University and Harvard Law School. He graduated with honors and returned home to join his father's law firm.

After serving in World War I, he became very involved with the American Legion and was elected to the high office of National Commander in 1928.

The handsome and personable McNutt ran a successful campaign for governor in 1932. His statewide victory was helped in large part by the momentum created by Franklin D. Roosevelt in his first bid for the Presidency.

McNutt's Democratic party won big that year, garnering 43 of the 50 Indiana senate seats and 91 of the 100 seats in the house. With these kinds of majorities, Governor McNutt was able to deeply reorganize state government. During his term the state implemented a gross income tax, created franchise licenses, legalized beer and wine sales, and voted to participate in federal social security and unemployment programs. He balanced the state budget and paid off a \$3.4 million debt left over from World War I.

Having already gained national recognition as American Legion president, McNutt was well-positioned for a run for the White House in 1936. However, Franklin D. Roosevelt opted for a second term. FDR appointed McNutt to be High Commissioner to the Philippines, a position he held until 1939 when he became director of the Federal Security Agency.

McNutt flirted with another run for the Presidency in 1940 until it became clear that FDR was intent on running for a third term. Harry Truman returned McNutt to the Philippines in 1945, where the Hoosier helped that country transition to independence.

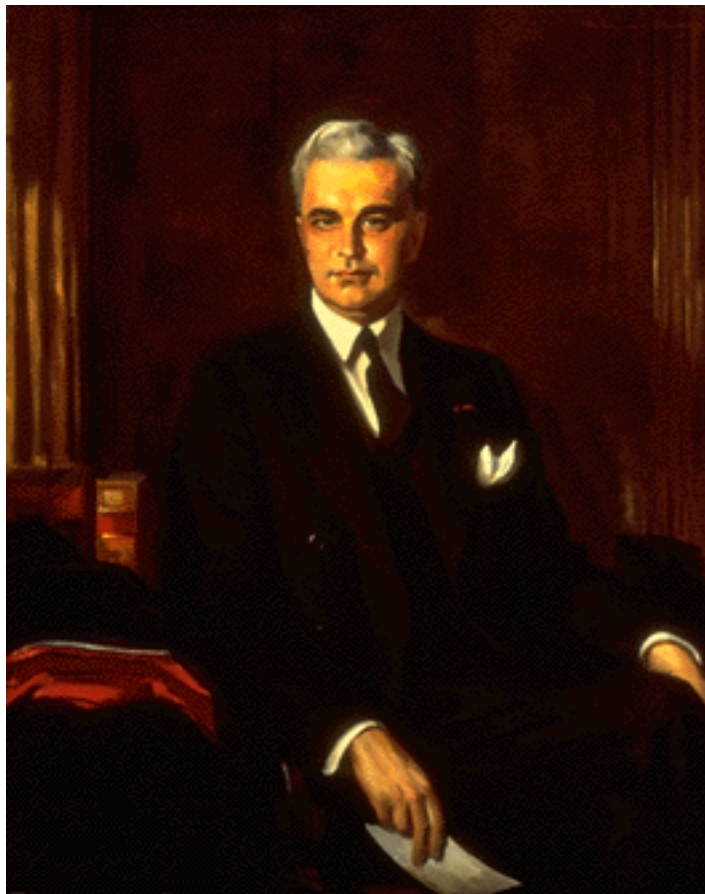
In later years he moved to New York and Washington, D. C. to practice law. When he died in 1955, Indiana Governor George Craig praised McNutt as "a distinguished son of Indiana and a patriot of the highest degree."

Paul V. McNutt was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Notes on Governors, compiled by Jim Johnson of the Tour Office Staff, is a regular feature of our newsletter



**Paul V. McNutt Governor of Indiana  
January 9, 1933 to January 11, 1937**



Artist: Wayman Adams, American, 1883-1959  
oil on canvas, 51 7/8 x 40 1/8 (131.8 x 101.9)  
Signed u.r.: Wayman Adams





*"We need interpreters of life. A new thought about an old fact sometimes has thrilling power. It may indeed build the bridge over which we go safely to a new road."*

*Virginia C. Meredith*



## Virginia Claypool Meredith Woman of Determination

"Yes, I am a farmer, and proud of it." Virginian Meredith, *Dignam Magazine*, Sept. 1905

At a time in American history when women were seen as extensions of men, either as mother, daughter, sibling, or wife, Virginia Meredith held her own as a respected farmer, respected stock breeder, and businesswoman, noted public speaker and writer as well as a strong proponent of education.

1848 – Virginia was born near Connersville IN, to Austin and Hannah Claypool.

1866 - She attained a B.A. from Glendale Female College located near Cincinnati, OH

1870 – Virginia married a childhood friend, Henry Clay Meredith, who served in the Indiana General Assembly (H of R) in 1881. Henry was the only surviving son of Civil War General Solomon Meredith, who had served in the Indiana General Assembly (H of R) in 1846-1849 and 1855. The couple shared a home with General and Mrs. Meredith at Oakland Farm on the edge of Cambridge City IN. Less than two years into their marriage, Henry's mother Anna passed away (1881) leaving Virginia with the formidable responsibilities of the large homestead and frequent hostess to her husband and father-in-law's business associates and political connections. General Meredith died in 1875, leaving Henry and Virginia a thriving farm and prize-winning livestock. Poor business decisions on Henry's part would soon jeopardize this heritage.

1884 – Henry Meredith died, leaving Virginia with a completely mortgaged property. Virginia persuaded the mortgage holder to give her time to make the farm profitable once again. Over the next twenty years by applying the business and animal husbandry procedures she had learned from her father and father-in-law, she would not only develop a reputation for excellent stock breeding and sustainable farming business practices, she would pay off the mortgage and reclaim a clear title to Oakland Farm. When a widowed friend, Hattie Matthews passed away in 1889, Virginia adopted her children, a son Meredith and a daughter Mary.

1884- Based on her expertise, Virginia became a noted speaker for the Farmer's Institute, a precursor to today's Extension Services. She became a much sought-after lecturer, nationally and internationally, on the topics of stock breeding, farming as a business, best farm practices, education, and home economics as well as the need for community involvement by both men and women especially as it impacted children.

1890 – Virginia was elected to the Board of Lady Managers for the World's

Columbian Exposition (aka-the Chicago World's Fair). This project would

consume most of her time for the next 5 years. However in 1893 she began another facets of her career as a writer for magazines, including the *Breeders Gazette*.

1895 – Having resumed speaking tours. Virginian Meredith was conferred the title of the “Queen of American Agriculture” at the conclusion of the Inter-State

Agricultural Institute at their gathering in Vicksburg, Mississippi. She had traveled there in the company of the governors of Wisconsin and Iowa. The only female speaker at the two day conference, her lecture on “Profitable Sheep Husbandry” was reported with highest acclaim .

1895—Following her work at the 1893 World's Fair, she accepted the position of Preceptress of Minnesota Girls' School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota. She would develop a curriculum that would teach all aspects of farm life including agriculture, animal husbandry and home economics. Courses were as diverse as blacksmithing, sewing, chemistry and physics, as well as music and military drill..

1902—After it having been her home for 32 years, Virginian sold Oakland Farm and most of her breeding stock. She would purchase property near-by which she named Norborough Farm. She would consider this place truly hers as opposed to Oakland which she felt she had held in trust for her father-in-law and husband's memories. But after years of seasonally commuting between Minnesota and Indiana, she would sell Norborough Farm in 1916. In 1908 she had the monument to General Meredith and the family remains from the farmstead cemetery at Oakland Farm relocated to Riverside Cemetery north of Cambridge City.



1921 – Virginia was appointed as the first female to the Board of Trustees for Purdue University. She served for 15 years, an unflagging proponent for the School of Agriculture, the Department of Household Economics (which would become the School of Home Economics in 1926 under the leadership of her adopted daughter, Mary Matthews), the Memorial Union building, and on-campus housing and physical education for female students. During this time she resided in West Lafayette with Mary.

Virginia passed away on December 10, 1936 at the age of 88. She was laid to rest beside her husband

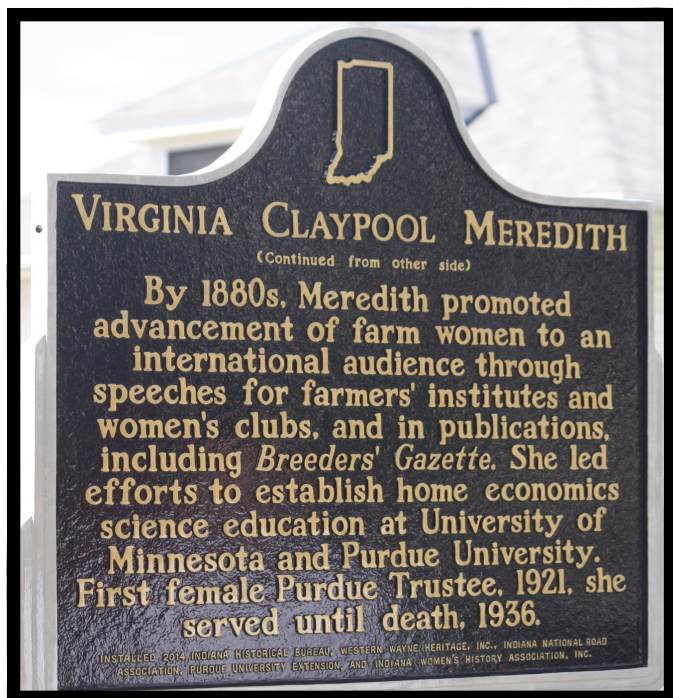
1952—Meredith Hall at Purdue University, named to honor her accomplishments there, was opened as a student residence.

2014—Virginian Claypool Meredith and her accomplishments were recognized with a historical marker on US 40, just north of Oakland Farm, in Cambridge City, IN.

Whitford, F. (2008). *The Queen of American Agriculture: A Biography of Virginia Claypool Meredith*. Lafayette: Purdue University Press.

R. Shepard, e. (1980). *A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau.

Purdue News Service (n.d.). Dean Matthews -An early progressive. West Lafayette, IN.



Article and pictures  
provided by Jeanette Goben,  
Capitol Tour  
Office



## Answers to the Indiana Quick Quiz



1. Garfield
2. William Henry Harrison
3. Columbus



Challenger: Paul V. McNutt



## TOURS OF THE STATE HOUSE

The Indiana Capitol Tour Office offers tours of the building that are designed for all ages and interests. We host special events such as Indiana Statehood Day, The First Lady's Tree Trim, Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Tours are offered on weekdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm and abbreviated tours are given on Saturdays at 10:15, 11:00, 12:00 and 1:00. Groups are limited to a total of 120 people at a time. To schedule a tour call 317-233-5293 or email us at [touroffice@idoa.in.gov](mailto:touroffice@idoa.in.gov).

For more information visit our website at  
<http://www.in.gov/idoa/2371.htm>

**Watch for our virtual tour that will be available at ,  
<http://www.in.gov/idoa/2371.htm> in  
January !!**

Thanks to the contributors to this newsletter,  
Jim Johnson, Jeannette Goben, Jennifer Hodge and the Tour Office  
Staff. If you would like to be removed from our list of  
recipients, just send us a quick email and we will do so right away !